

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	USSR (Kaliningrad Oblast)	REPORT	
SUBJECT	1. Conditions in Slavsk and its Vicinity 2. Prices in Slavsk 3. Travel Priorities in Kaliningrad Oblast	DATE DISTR.	26 July 1955
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This is UNEVALUATED
Information.

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFERRED. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. The village of Slavsk (N 55-03, E 21-41) is populated by Soviets from various republics of the USSR. No German inhabitants remain. Although no military unit is stationed in the village, soldiers are frequently seen in the area. Two sawmills, a dairy, three hotels, and a tailoring shop are in operation. No new business has been established since World War II. The hospital has been partially converted into a neuro-clinic. Although the village suffered only minor damage during the war, many houses are now in ruins because the Soviets tear them down to obtain firewood. The church is used as a granary, and many gravestones have been stolen from the surrounding cemetery and reinscribed for Soviet graves. A monument to fallen Soviet soldiers has been erected in the cemetery located near the Food Office. 25X1
2. The movie theater Pobeda, in the former athletic hall, provides the principal recreation of the inhabitants of Slavsk. Soviet films are usually shown, but some Hungarian, German, and Czech films are also presented. Even very old foreign films are received with enthusiasm, and the theater is sold out for such performances. Tickets cost three to four and one-half rubles. 25X1
3. In the district around Slavsk, more than 50 percent of the arable land lies fallow, and much of it has turned to swamp. Kolkhozy are located at Gruenbaum, Neukirch (N 55-06, E 21-06), and two near Kallningken (N 55-11, E 21-21). 25X1

The harvest in 1953 was good, but the grain was cut late because of a shortage of labor and was not handled properly because of the unfamiliarity of the kolkhozniki, who came from central Russia, with the coastal climate. 25X1

4. The quantity and quality of market goods improved appreciably during 1953 and 1954. However, bread rolls were rarely available, and long queues formed whenever they were offered. Canned fish was widely advertised but seldom bought, because there had been several cases of poisoning and even deaths from its use. Prices paid for consumers' goods in Slavsk in 1954 are as follows: 25X1

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Price in rubles</u>
Granulated sugar	1 kilo	8.40
Lump sugar	1 kilo	9.60
Bread	1 kilo	1.15 to 1.80
Sunflower oil	1 kilo	17.80
Pork	1 kilo	20 to 22
Veal	1 kilo	12 to 15
Beef	1 kilo	15 to 16
Pickled fish	1 kilo	4 to 5
Eggs	10	9 to 10
Milk	1 liter	2
Fresh bilberries	1 glass	1
Garden strawberries	1 glass	1.50
Cream	1 glass	2.50

5. The supply of firewood is very low, and it is often obtained by depredations on wooden houses and fences in neighboring areas. A cartload of such firewood costs 30 rubles.
6. Trains in Kaliningrad Oblast are frequently overcrowded, and travellers are assigned places according to priority. It is always possible to obtain a place by bribery of railroad officials, however. Following is a list of the priorities assigned:

<u>Priority</u>	<u>Class of traveller</u>
First	High government and Party officials.
Second	Persons travelling on business for government and Party officials.
Third	Travellers going to health resorts.
Fourth	Soldiers and petty officials.
Fifth	All other civilians.

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